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SOURCE Czechoslovak newspapers as indicated.

MORE GOODS AVAILABLE
ON FREE MARKET

FREE MARKET EXPANDS -- Rude Pravo, No 85, 10 Apr 49

Mrs L. Jankovcova, Minister of Food, and F. Krajcir, Minister of Trade, recently answered several questions for the editor of Rude Pravo. F. Krajcir said that from 6 January 1949 to 25 March 1949 textiles to the value of 2,182,000,000 crowns had been placed on the controlled market, while 956 million crowns' worth of goods of the same quality had been released for the free market. This does not include the tax on goods on the free market; therefore, about 30 percent of the textiles delivered to market have been sold on the free market. The turnover of these goods is accelerating.

The Minister said that the supply of bed linen for home use was increasing, although it is still a difficult matter. A large part of production is consumed by hospitals and other public institutions. The distribution of bed linen is therefore limited to certain stores, and purchases may be made only with ration tickets. This situation will improve as production increases.

The consumption of textiles now equals that of 1938, as measured in kilograms of yarn. The average per-capita consumption is 6 kilograms per year, although before the war a large proportion of the population had considerably less. The average prewar consumption of shoes was 3.4 pairs; last year it reached 3.28 pairs.

The free market is the standard market for all consumers, without discrimination. Workers, however, receive special advantages in that they may buy goods for lower prices with ration tickets. Goods in sufficient supply, on the other hand, are sold to all on the free market.

More than 80 percent of all consumers have a clothing ration book, which enables them to save on more expensive items. Consumers, primarily, seek quality on the rationed market, while they buy cheap goods on the free market. Therefore, more expensive goods remain unsold on the free market.

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Mme Jankovcova said that interest in the free food market was great. Most customers are workers, the turnover is increasing, and the supply of goods on the market is considerable. There are now more than 400 outlets for the free food market; this number will be increased, especially in Slovakia. A new distribution system will be introduced to provide workers with butter directly through their factories. We will be satisfied when the queues disappear.

The quantity and selection of foods on the free market is constantly on the increase. The first objects sold were dates, nuts, orange rind, canned fowl, Hungarian sausage, sandwiches, and lettuce. Smoked meats, figs, and other items will soon be available.

Prices on the free market are variable, and will go down as production increases. Butter is now down from 450 crowns to 400 crowns per kilogram. Large eggs were 12 crowns, and are now 10 crowns. Beginning 11 April 1949 they will be 8 crowns. Smaller eggs, which had been reduced from 10 to 8 crowns, will also go down to 6 crowns on 11 April.

The free market will be expanded as production of goods increases. The goal is a completely free market.

SPECIAL CITIZENS RATIONS -- Zemedelske Noviny, No 87, 13 Apr 49

In April or May, children under 12 years will receive a special ration of one-half kilogram of oranges.

Prace, No 89, 15 Apr 49

In April or May, all consumers will receive 100 grams of lemons.

POTATOES MUST BE BOUGHT EARLY -- Prace, No 85, 10 Apr 49

Consumers who draw potato rations must take their 6-kilogram ration for May by the end of April or their ration will expire.

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